

## Managed Migration to Universal Credit

The aim of this factsheet is to address concerns and provide information about the managed migration of legacy benefit claimants to Universal Credit.

### What is managed migration?

Managed migration is the name for the process where the DWP transfer legacy benefit claimants to Universal Credit. This is different to natural migration, which happens when a legacy benefit claimant has a change in circumstances and Universal Credit becomes the only benefit available to claim.

### Which benefits does Universal Credit replace?

Universal Credit is a means-tested benefit, and it is replacing six existing means-tested benefits (known as **legacy benefits**):

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit (working age claimants)
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit

### Which benefits does Universal Credit not replace?

Universal Credit does not replace any benefit not listed above, eg. Child Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Statutory Sick Pay.

### Managed migration process

- The managed migration process begins when the DWP send you a **migration notice**. This notice informs you that your legacy benefit entitlement will end on a specified date and invites you to make a claim for Universal Credit. Receiving this notice makes you a **notified person**.
- The notice includes a day by which you must make a claim for Universal Credit, this is known as your **deadline day**. This date must be at least three months from the date on your migration notice. The deadline can be extended if there is good reason (eg. you were ill and could not claim).
- If you do not claim before your deadline day but do so within a month of that day (known as your **final deadline**), you will be treated as having made a **qualifying claim** and transitional protection and the transitional element can apply if relevant.

- Your legacy benefit entitlement ends on the day that you claim Universal Credit, or on the day before your deadline day if you do not make a claim. You will get a **two-week run on** of Income Support, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and Housing Benefit provided that you would have remained entitled. These payments do not count as income for Universal Credit. There are no run-on payments of tax credits.

### Transitional protection

Entitlement to Universal Credit is not automatic as the rules for Universal Credit and legacy benefits are different. Due to this, the DWP have made provision for several groups of people to allow entitlement to Universal Credit where the normal rules would prevent it.

- **Full-time students** – claimants who are receiving education are not normally entitled to Universal Credit (although many exceptions apply). If you are a full-time student when your legacy benefit ends, transitional protection rules mean that you will be able to make a claim for Universal Credit while you continue to undertake that course
- **Tax credit claimants** – tax credits do not have a capital limit, whereas Universal Credit has a capital limit of £16,000. If you are a tax credit claimant and have over £16,000 in capital, any amount over £16,000 is ignored for the **first 12 months** if you are moved to Universal Credit through managed migration. This is known as a transitional capital disregard. Capital below £16,000 will still produce a yield income

Additional transitional protection measures include the availability of **discretionary hardship payments** for claimants who suffer hardship as a result of migration.

### Transitional element

A transitional element can be included in your Universal Credit calculation if you move to Universal Credit through managed migration and you would be worse off as a result. It is not a set amount and is calculated by comparing your **total legacy amount** with your **indicative Universal Credit amount**. The transitional element ensures that you do not experience an immediate reduction in income, however any amount you receive will erode over time as other elements increase or are added to your award (not including the childcare element).

You cannot get a transitional element if:

- you were claiming legacy benefits as part of a couple but claim Universal Credit as a single person; or
- you were claiming legacy benefits as a couple and claim Universal Credit as part of a different couple; or
- you fail to make a qualifying claim to Universal Credit eg. you fail to make a claim before your deadline day or fail to provide the required information. Even if you subsequently make a valid claim, the transitional element will not be included.

Transitional elements will end in the following circumstances:

- when you claimed Universal Credit, your earnings from work were at least £355 per month for a single claimant, and £567 per month for joint claimants, but they have now dropped below this level for three consecutive monthly assessment periods;
- you originally claimed Universal Credit as a couple but become single;
- you originally claimed Universal Credit as a single person but form a couple;
- your Universal Credit award ends; you cannot get a transitional element included in a subsequent award of Universal Credit unless your previous award ends due to your earnings increasing, for this to apply, the new award of Universal Credit must start within 3 months of the previous award ending.

For more information about the transitional element, see the [factsheet](#) on our website.

**Note:** transitional protection only applies to claimants who transfer through managed migration. If you naturally migrate after a change of circumstances, no transitional element can be included, although a transitional severe disability premium element may be included if you were entitled to the severe disability premium. See the additional [factsheet](#) on our website.

The transitional severe disability premium element is not included in managed migration claims. The transitional element may be included instead.

## Frequently asked questions

### When will I be contacted?

The timescale and details of the rollout process is not yet known. Managed migration is currently limited to claimants in Bolton and Medway, but we expect the affected areas to be extended throughout the course of 2022. The DWP aim to have completed the managed migration process by 2024.

### Is the transfer automatic?

No. You will need to make a claim for Universal Credit by a deadline set out in the letter that you receive. If you do not make a claim, you will not be entitled to Universal Credit and you will lose your legacy benefits. Any subsequent claim for Universal Credit that you make will not be covered by the managed migration rules and transitional protection and the transitional element rules will not apply.

### I don't want to claim Universal Credit, can I stay on legacy benefits?

If you have received a migration notice, you cannot stay on legacy benefits.

### How much Universal Credit will I get?

The amount of Universal Credit that you will receive is not a set amount and depends on your circumstances. You can use a benefits calculator to get an estimate of the amount you might get, but please be aware that benefit calculators do not guarantee entitlement and are not an official claim.

**Will I have to wait 5 weeks for my first payment?**

Universal Credit is paid monthly in arrears, within 7 days of the end of your monthly assessment period. This means that you may have to wait at least 5 weeks before your first payment. If you are in financial need while you wait for your first payment, you may be able to get an advance payment. This is recovered from subsequent payments, usually over 24 months.